

Their lives have been completely turned upside down by this phenomenon, this elimination of the border, the fact that there is no longer a border, the "It is not really two countries, it is just a region" philosophy. Their lives have been turned upside down. Their ranches are being destroyed. They are being essentially driven out of their homes.

I just wanted to bring Mr. Adams to the attention of the body as a homeland hero.

□ 1945

#### AMERICA'S IMPORTANT WAR COLLEGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend our troops on the battlefields in Iraq. Their continuing advance to victory is a product of that courage and ingenuity under changing conditions. It is also the results of extraordinarily detailed and adaptive planning. That itself was built on the knowledge and wisdom instilled by our war colleges.

These institutions in every service make great officers into outstanding war-time leaders. Military historians have noted that the allied victory in World War II is due in no small part to the fact that some of our top military leaders both attended and taught at the services war colleges. I believe the same will be said for Operation Iraqi Freedom. In all of the services, including the Army's exceptional war college at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, our officers are skilled in the art of strategy, operations, and tactics that are the foundation of an innovative and effective military campaign.

The instruction provided by our service intermediate- and senior-level war colleges came to fruition in the war plan developed by General Tommy Franks and his team. The plan outlined a truly joint effort that has kept American forces a constant 48 to 72 hours ahead of Iraqi responses. The strategy has hit hard at Iraqi leadership and Republican Guard targets, degrading command and control and isolating the bands of fighters unwise enough to take on our troops. Quite simply, the Iraqi military is already incapable of fighting in a coordinated way at division, brigade, and battalion levels. This is a stunning military achievement that would not have been possible without leaders educated in the art of war. And we as a Nation owe a debt to the professional military education system that provided that education to today's senior military leaders.

The current American infiltration of Baghdad demonstrates our disciplined ability to encircle the city and deal with the remnants of resistance, sector by sector. The strategy also shows a so-

phisticated approach to enhancing the psychological impact of each military action taken. By removing the will of the Iraqis to fight, our victory and the Iraqi people's liberation will come that much more quickly. I believe that military historians and strategists will long study the plans of this operation, the planning that was a product of the American war college system will become the lesson plan for future officers.

As British Air Marshal Brian Burridge said this morning, the U.S. advance into Bagdad has been unique. Historians and academics will pour over it for years, and this will be a required case study for students of war.

We should be proud of our troops and of the officers who lead them. But we should also feel deep pride for the system of institutions that has made this leadership as exceptional as it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### AMERICA NEEDS A BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I would like to open up by saying when the President sent us his budget this year the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, acknowledged that the surplus of the \$5.6 trillion which we all hailed 2 years ago is gone. It has vanished. In fact, OMB now says there never was such a surplus when they, the Office of Management and Budget, adjust the surplus to account for the economy as they see it now. The 10-year surplus is no longer \$5.6 trillion. It is \$2.4 trillion. And all of that \$2.4 trillion has been committed, or I should say overcommitted, by policy action to the tune of \$129 billion. That is what we would incur if we did not do anything else, mostly due to the tax cuts passed in June of 2001.

So any additional tax cuts and any additional spending beyond current services will go straight to the bottom line. There is no surplus anymore to mitigate or cushion or offset that deficit. It goes straight to the bottom line and adds dollar to dollar to the deficit. The arithmetic is simple.

Knowing that, the President of the United States nevertheless proposes \$2 trillion in additional policy actions, legislative actions here, mostly, once again, in new tax cuts that will add \$2 trillion to our national debt over the next 10 years.

Now, when the Congress Budget Office sent us their analysis of the Presi-

dent's budget as they are required by law to do, they saw deficits out as far as they forecast. As a matter of fact, when you back out Social Security as I think you should because I do not think we should be spending Social Security, and everybody on this House floor who was here just a couple of years ago foreswore the practice of ever again spending the Social Security surpluses, so when you back it out and look at what CBO portrays and depicts the President's budget to produce, you will see that over the next 10 years they forecast deficits, without a Social Security surplus to offset them, deficits of \$400 billion at least every year for the next 10 years.

So when you remove the Social Security surplus from the equation, the accumulation of deficits is \$4 trillion over the next 10 years. As a consequence of this budget that the President sent up here, in a way both Houses repudiated the President's budget. Both Senate Republicans and House Republicans rejected what the President sent. When the House Republicans saw the President's budget, they warmly embraced his tax cuts. They were ready for another round of tax cuts, despite our experience with the last round; but they at least acknowledged the responsibility to go find some offsets, some spending offsets that would help mitigate, reduce, cushion the impact of these huge tax cuts. The President was seeking another \$1.4 trillion in tax cuts as much again this year as he did back in 2001.

They went back looking for some offsets; and they came up with \$470 billion in what we call, in budget parlance, reconciliation tax cuts. These are reconciliation spending cuts. These are directives to the committees of jurisdiction that write legislation that deal with Medicare and Medicaid and school lunches, a whole array of entitlement programs, to go change that permanent law so that they can save a certain sum of money by a certain date.

In this case, as I said, the total of all those reconciliation instructions came to \$470 billion. Our Republican colleagues wanted to cut Medicare over the next 10 years by \$262 billion, Medicaid by \$110 billion, veterans by \$15 billion on the mandatory side, the entitlement side and 15 more on the veterans health care side, education by \$9.4 billion on the mandatory side. That would have to come out of school lunches and student loans, government pensions \$40 billion, the railroad retirement program, a vested benefit if there ever was one, \$3.7 billion.

Well, those offsets had a short shelf life. They survived attack in the Committee on the Budget. They all voted for it on the Republican side of the committee; but during the markup, the chairmen of these different committees who were about to be the object of these reconciliation instructions came forth and they said, you have got to give us some relief. We cannot do it. So the number was cut from \$470 billion to \$265 billion.